

4 a second spring interposed between said distal end of a second one of said armatures and
5 an opposite extremity of said coil.

1 5. The lock of claim 3, further comprised of said coil forming an air vent extending between
2 a central portion of said bore and an exterior surface of said mechanism.

1 6. The lock of claim 4, further comprised of said coil forming an air vent extending between
2 a central portion of said bore and an exterior surface of said mechanism.

1 7. The lock of claim 1, further comprised of said housing providing a cavity having a
2 longitudinal axis and an interior surface, and said detents comprising a plurality of slots formed
3 within said interior surface on diametrically opposite sides of said interior surface.

1 8. The lock of claim 1, further comprised of:
2 said housing providing a cavity having a longitudinal axis and an interior surface, and said
3 detents comprising a plurality of slots formed within said interior surface on diametrically opposite
4 sides of said interior surface; and

5 said mechanism comprising a cylinder plug removably receivable within said cavity to
6 rotate about said longitudinal axis, with said coil and said armatures borne by said cylinder plug in
7 radial alignment with said slots while said housing is in said locked state, and said distal ends being

8 withdrawn from said slots while said housing is in said unlocked state.

1 9. The lock of claim 8, further comprised of said coil forming an air vent extending between
2 a central portion of said bore and an exterior surface of said mechanism.

1 10. The lock of claim 8, further comprised of said distal ends being beveled.

1 11. The lock of claim 1, further comprised of:

2 said housing providing a first bracket having a pair of spaced-apart end walls forming a
3 cavity having a longitudinal axis, and said detents comprising a plurality of apertures formed within
4 said end walls on diametrically opposite sides of said cavity; and

5 said mechanism comprising a second bracket bearing said coil and said armatures to be
6 slidably received within said cavity between said end walls with said armatures being aligned with
7 said longitudinal axis, with said distal ends engaging said end walls and said armatures being
8 depressed into said bore until said housing is placed in said locked state when said armatures are in
9 axial alignment with said apertures, said distal ends being withdrawn from said apertures and toward
10 said bore while said housing is in said unlocked state.

1 12. The lock of claim 11, further comprised of said coil forming an air vent extending
2 between a central portion of said bore and atmosphere.

1 13. The lock of claim 11, further comprised of said distal ends being beveled.

1 14. The lock of claim 13, further comprised of said coil forming an air vent extending
2 between a central portion of said bore and atmosphere.

1 15. A lock, comprising:

2 a housing bearing an interior recess containing a pair of spaced apart detents, said housing
3 being positionable to control access by alternately positioning said detents in a locked state and an
4 unlocked state;

5 a single annularly wound electrically conducting coil terminated by a single pair of leads;
6 and

7 a pair of armatures made of a material that is movably responsive to magnetic force, being
8 slidably positioned within axially opposite ends of said coil between said detents, with one or both
9 of said armatures maintaining said locked state by engaging corresponding ones of said detents, and
10 placing said lock in said unlocked state in response to application of a potential difference across said
11 pair of leads.

1 16. The lock of claim 15, further comprised of said coil forming an air vent extending
2 between a central portion of said bore and an exterior surface of said mechanism.

1 17. The lock of claim 15, further comprised of said coil forming an air vent extending

2 between a central position of said coil.

1 18. The lock of claim 15, further comprised of said housing providing a cavity having a
2 longitudinal axis and an interior surface, and said detents comprising a plurality of slots formed
3 within said interior surface on diametrically opposite sides of said interior surface.

1 19. The lock of claim 15, further comprised of:

2 said housing providing a cavity having a longitudinal axis and an interior surface, and said
3 detents comprising a plurality of slots formed within said interior surface on diametrically opposite
4 sides of said interior surface; and

5 a cylinder plug removably receivable within said cavity to rotate about said longitudinal axis,
6 with said coil and said armatures rotatably borne by said cylinder plug in radial alignment with said
7 slots while said housing is in said locked state, and said armatures being withdrawn from said slots
8 while said housing is in said unlocked state.

1 20. The lock of claim 15, further comprised of:

2 said housing providing a first bracket having a pair of spaced-apart end walls forming a
3 cavity having a longitudinal axis, and said detents comprising a plurality of apertures formed within
4 said end walls on diametrically opposite sides of said cavity; and

5 a second bracket bearing said coil and said armatures to be slidably received within said
6 cavity between said end walls with said armatures being aligned with said longitudinal axis, with

7 distal ends of said armatures engaging said end walls and said armatures being depressed into said
8 bore until said housing is placed in said locked state when said armatures are in axial alignment with
9 said apertures, said distal ends being withdrawn from said apertures and toward said bore while said
10 housing is in said unlocked state.

1 21. A lock, comprised of:

2 a solenoid comprising:

3 an electrically conducting coil; and

4 a plurality of armatures positioned to exhibit a response to conduction of an electrical
5 current by said coil;

6 a first one of said plurality of armatures being aligned with a second one of said
7 plurality of armatures to exhibit an increased outward force axially away from said coil when an
8 inward force directed axially toward said coil is applied to said second one of said plurality of
9 armatures during an absence of said conduction.

1 22. A lock, comprised of:

2 a coil disposed to conduct an electrical current;

3 a plurality of armatures positioned to operatively respond to conduction of said electrical
4 current by said coil, with a first one of said plurality of armatures being biased outwardly and away
5 from said coil when a force biasing a second one of said armatures inwardly toward said coil is
6 applied to said second one of said armatures during an absence of said conduction.